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Message Text

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65
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DRAFTED BY EB/ITP:MWGLITMAN:JVM
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 296845

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

1. UK EMBASSY GAVE US, IN STRICT CONFIDENCE,
FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON BRITISH IMPORT RESTRICTIONS:

THE BRITISH CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, MR. HEALEY, WILL
BE ANNOUNCING TO PARLIAMENT ON THE AFTERNOON OF WEDNESDAY,
17 DECEMBER, THE FOLLOWING IMPORT MEASURES:

A. IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON SPUN YARN (BN 55.05) FROM
SPAIN, WITH A QUOTA OF 2,732 TONNES, IDENTICAL TO THE
VOLUME OF IMPORTS FROM SPAIN IN THE 12 MONTH PERIOD
OCTOBER 1974 TO SEPTEMBER 1975;

B. IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON SPUN YARN AND MAN-MADE FIBRE
FABRICS (BN 55.05 AND 56.07) FROM PORTUGAL, THE QUOTAS
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AMOUNTING RESPECTIVELY TO 4,924 AND 2,221 TONNES;

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C. THE SEEKING OF VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS FROM ROMANIA, HUNGARY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, POLAND AND THE GDR ON SUITS AND FROM POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND ROMANIA ON FOOTWEAR (THESE BEING, IN THE CASE OF MEN'S LEATHER FOOTWEAR, AN EXTENSION INTO 1976 OF RESTRAINTS ALREADY AGREED FOR 1975);

D. A SYSTEM OF SURVEILLANCE LICENSING OF COLOUR TV TUBES AND SETS AND OF PORTABLE MONOCHROME TV SETS FROM ALL SOURCES.

THE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AT A. AND B. ARE TO TAKE EFFECT FROM MIDNIGHT ON 17 DECEMBER.

2. PLEASE OBTAIN ANSWERS TO FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WHICH UK EMBASSY WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE:

A. ARE ANY FURTHER ACTIONS CONTEMPLATED AFFECTING TRADE, INCLUDING UK EXPORTS AS WELL AS IMPORTS?

B. HOW LONG WILL RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT?

C. HOW DOES UK INTEND HANDLE ISSUE IN OECD AND GATT?

D. HOW DOES UK INTEND TO SQUARE RESTRICTIONS ON FABRIC AND YARNS WITH MULTI-FIBER AGREEMENT?

E. HOW DO QUOTAS PROPOSED FOR PORTUGAL COMPARE WITH PRECEEDING PERIODS?

F. WHEN WILL SURVEILLANCE LICENSING SYSTEM TAKE EFFECT?

3. REPLIES TO THESE QUESTION SHOULD BE IN WASHINGTON FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17 (SLUG RESPONSE FOR ATTENTION OF MR. GLITMAN, EB/ITP, EXT. 22533 AND MR. FEKETEKUTY, STR, 395-3582). INGERSOLL

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